

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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SUBJECT: STRENGTHENING OF SECRETARIAT OUTER SPACE DIVISION

REF: USUN 5015

1. PRECEDING COSPONSORS MEETING WEDNESDAY MORNING OCT 15, US AND SOVIET DELS MET TO DISCUSS MAURITIUS AMENDMENT CONTAINED REFTEL ON STRENGTHENING OF UN OUTER SPACE AFFAIRS DIVISION. DURING THE NIGHT A STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS HAD BEEN ISSUED ASSERTING THAT THE SYG INTERPRETED THE ABOVE AMENDMENT TO REQUIRE A REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAM OF THE OSAD AND OF THE RELATED STAFFING IMPLICATIONS, AND TO REPORT THEREON TO THE GA IN THE CONTEXT OF THE REVISED ESTIMATES HE IS TO SUBMIT AT THE CURRENT SESSION.

2. SOVIET DEL HAD BEEN GIVEN THE PROPOSED US TEXT CONTAINED REFTEL AND SUGGESTED DELETION OF REFERENCE TO SPECIFIC NUMBER OF POSITIONS AND DELETION OF REFERENCE TO BUDGET FOR 1976-77 BIENNIAL ON GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD INSPIRE INCREASES IN PROPOSALS FOR THAT BUDGET, WHICH IS NOT YET ADOPTED. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION WE AGREED ON A TEXT WHICH WOULD REQUEST THE SYG WITHIN HIS PRESENT RESOURCES TO TAKE MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN THE OSAD, BOTH OF US AGREEING THAT THE DIVISION COULD WELL BE STRENGTHENED BUT PREFERABLY THROUGH A SHIFT OF RESOURCES FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE

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BUDGET, NOT FROM AN ADDITION.

3. A COSPONSORS MEETING, FRANCE IN PARTICULAR SPOKE OUT STRONGLY FOR AN ADDITION TO THE TOTAL BUDGET FOR SPECIFIC POSITIONS, BUT WE AND THE SOVIETS MANAGED TO CONVINCE EVERYONE TO SUPPORT A FORMULA WHICH REQUESTED THE SYG TO TAKE MEASURES, IF POSSIBLE WITHIN HIS PRESENT RESOURCES, TO STRENGTHEN THE OSAD. THIS FORMULA WAS LATER ACCEPTED BY THE FIRST COMMITTEE.

4. UNFORTUNATELY WHEN MAURITIAN AMBASSADOR RAMPHUL EXPLAINED THIS LAST VERSION OF HIS AMENDMENT TO THE FIRST COMMITTEE, HE INDICATED THAT THE COSPONSORS HAD AGREED THAT AT LEAST ONE OF THE POSTS SHOULD BE FILLED BY AN AFRICAN AS THAT THE CONTINENT IS NOT NOW REPRESENTED IN THE OSAD. THIS PROMPTED A FLURRY OF LATIN AMERICAN PROTESTS ON GROUNDS THAT THE LATTER CONTINENT IS NOT REPRESENTED EITHER.

5. BECAUSE RAMPHUL'S STATEMENT REGARDING COSPONSOR AGREEMENT WAS CLEARLY INACCURATE AND BECAUSE HE ASSERTED THAT AN AFRICAN SHOULD BE APPOINTED REGARDLESS OF HIS QUALIFICATIONS, AMBASSADOR BENNETT MADE THE FOLLOWING BRIEF STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD:

"MR. CHAIRMAN,  
I WOULD BRIEFLY LIKE TO EXPLAIN MY DELEGATIONS POSITION ON THIS AMENDMENT RELATING TO STRENGTHENING OF THE OUTER SPACE DIVISION. WE ARE IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH THE IDEA THAT THE OUTER SPACE DIVISION SHOULD OFFER THE GREATEST ASSISTANCE FEASIBLE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF USING REMOTE SENSING DATA FOR THEIR INDIVIDUAL AND COMMON BENEFIT. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WILL UNDERTAKE A THOROUGH ANALYSIS OF THE FULL RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES FOR STRENGTHENING THAT DIVISION.

IT HAS BEEN INFORMALLY SUGGESTED BY SOME THAT ONE OF THE POSSIBLE MEASURES WOULD BE TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBERS IN THE OUTER SPACE DIVISION. ALTHOUGH WE WOULD FRANKLY THINK IT MORE APPROPRIATE FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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THE FIRST COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF SUCH MEASURES AFTER THEY ARE PROPOSED BY THE SYG, BECAUSE THE QUESTION HAS BEEN RAISED HERE I SHOULD LIKE TO MAKE A BRIEF COMMENT.

IF ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL FOR THE OUTER SPACE DIVISION ARE RECOMMENDED BY THE SYG, WE BELIEVE THEY SHOULD BE INDIVIDUALS WITH HIGHLY DEVELOPED EXPERTISE-NO MATTER FROM WHERE THEY COME-EXPERTS WHO CAN PROCEED IMMEDIATELY TO

TEACH OTHERS HOW TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE RESULTS OF SPACE  
EXPLORATION. TO USE EMPLOYMENT IN THE OUTER SPACE  
DIVISION FOR TRAINING PURPOSES WOULD BE TO DELAY THE  
SHARING OF BENEFITS WHICH AN EXPERT COULD MAKE AVAILABLE  
FROM THE BEGINNING OF HIS EMPLOYMENT.

FINALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE OUR VIEW THAT THE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL SHOULD MAKE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO  
FIND WAYS WITHIN HIS PRESENT RESOURCES TO UNDERTAKE THE  
STRENGTHENING OF THE OUTER SPACE DIVISION. WE BELIEVE  
THIS SHOULD BE POSSIBLE, AND BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT IT IS  
DESIRABLE TO AVOID ADDITIONAL BURDENS ON THE TOTAL BUDGET.

WITH THESE GUIDELINES IN MIND, WE LOOK FORWARD TO  
THE SIGNIFICANT STRENGTHENING OF THE OS DIVISION.

THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN."

6. THE SOVIETS MADE A COMPARABLE STATEMENT ON THE  
BUDGETARY ISSUE.  
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